

Shuron, Inc.

Barnwell, Barnwell County, South Carolina

Community Fact Sheet #2

July 2000



Shuron, Inc. is on Clinton Street in Barnwell. The 85-acre site is bordered by neighborhoods to the north and west, a wetland and Turkey Creek to the east, and a railroad right-of-way to the south.

The facility opened in 1958 as Shuron Continental Optical Company. The company made lenses. In 1985, the company was sold and renamed Shuron, Inc. It stopped operating in 1992. The site was added to the National Priorities List (NPL) in December 1996. The NPL is a list of hazardous waste sites that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers most in need of an environmental cleanup.

Why was a public health assessment completed?

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's (SCDHEC) Division of Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) prepares a public health assessment for every site on or proposed for the NPL.

What is a public health assessment?

A public health assessment evaluates potential health risks related to a specific site. In preparing a public health assessment, SCDHEC-HHE staff review available environmental data, draw conclusions about public health hazards, and make recommendations to protect the public's health. The document also addresses community concerns.

SCDHEC-HHE prepared a draft public health assessment for the Shuron Site in April 1999. A 30-day public comment period was provided to give community members a chance to review the draft document and provide input before completion. No comments were received from the public.

What do the environmental data show?

Many environmental studies have taken place at the Shuron Site from 1983 to 1997.

Several volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals have been found in groundwater monitoring wells at levels above their EPA maximum contaminant levels for drinking water.

VOCs and metals have also been found in on-site soil, surface water, and sediments. A few chemicals were detected above screening levels in soil. Two VOCs and lead were found in on-site surface water above South Carolina's Water Quality Criteria.

Several off-site samples have also been collected. No chemicals were detected above their screening levels in any of the off-site soil or Turkey Creek samples. A 1983 biological study of Turkey Creek did not show that the creek had been affected by the site.

The City of Barnwell municipal well #10 has been sampled in the past. This well is across Clinton Street southwest of the site. Chemicals have not been found in this well.

What conclusions does the final public health assessment draw?

The site poses no apparent health hazard to the community.

We have no information to indicate that anyone is drinking water contaminated with chemicals from the site. However, we cannot say with certainty that the City of Barnwell municipal well #10 will not be affected by contaminants at the site in the future. Since access to the site is limited by a fence, expo-

sure to chemicals found in on-site soil, surface water, and sediments is unlikely to cause health effects.

It does not appear that the site has adversely affected Turkey Creek. However, a general water quality survey could provide information about the health of the creek. At this point in time, exposure to Turkey Creek near the site should not result in any adverse health effects.

What recommendations does the final public health assessment make?

Monitor the City of Barnwell municipal well #10 at least annually.

Complete a biological survey of Turkey Creek to determine if water quality has been affected by the site.

Ensure that site access is restricted.

No further public health actions are needed at this time.

What happens next?

SCDHEC-HHE will work toward carrying out the recommendations made in the final public health assessment. We will also continue to keep the community informed of our activities.

How can I get a copy of the final public health assessment?

Copies of the final public health assessment are available at these locations:

Barnwell County Public Library
617 Hagood Avenue
Barnwell, South Carolina 29812

SCDHEC
Lower Savannah EQC District Office
206 Beaufort Street, NE
Aiken, South Carolina 29801

SCDHEC
Division of Health Hazard Evaluation
1751 Calhoun Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

You may also call us, toll-free, at **(888) 849-7241** to request a copy of the final public health assessment.

How can I get more information?

For additional information on the Shuron, Inc. Site, you may contact one of the offices listed below.

Local: SCDHEC - Lower Savannah Environmental Quality Control District Office - (803) 641-7670. This Office can answer your questions or refer you to other areas, as needed.

State: SCDHEC - Division of Health Hazard Evaluation - (888) 849-7241. This Division prepares public health assessments, addresses health concerns, and provides health education.